



# SURVIVOR BENEFITS

## Death Benefit

As a retired member of the Montana Teachers' Retirement System (TRS), your designated beneficiary(ies) of record with TRS will be entitled to receive a one-time only \$500.00 death benefit, payable upon your death.

You can check your current beneficiary(ies) via your TRS Online System account or by calling TRS. Beneficiaries may be changed only under certain specific circumstances. Review the Benefit Recipient Handbook or call TRS for more information.

### *Normal Form Benefit Allowance*

If you elected the Normal Form retirement allowance, this death benefit will be paid to your designated beneficiary(ies) of record with TRS. In the absence of a valid beneficiary form on record with TRS, this \$500.00 death benefit will be paid to your estate.

### *Joint & Survivor or 10/20 Year Certain & Life Benefit Allowance*

If you elected either a Joint & Survivor or a 10/20 Year Certain & Life retirement benefit allowance, the \$500.00 death benefit will automatically be paid to the joint annuitant or beneficiary(ies) designated to receive a monthly benefit upon your death.

## Minor Child Benefit

Your minor child(ren) are entitled to receive a minor child benefit of \$200.00 per month, upon your death. This monthly benefit will be paid monthly until the month in which the child attains age 18.

## Designating a New Beneficiary (*Joint & Survivor only*)

If you elected a Joint & Survivor retirement benefit allowance, you *may* be eligible to apply to designate a new joint annuitant and select the same or a different retirement benefit allowance upon the death or divorce of your original joint annuitant .

If you designate a new joint annuitant, your benefit will be actuarially adjusted based upon the difference in age between yourself and your new joint annuitant. The effective date of the adjusted benefit will be the first of the month following receipt of your application.

### *Account Value*

If it is necessary for the parties in a dissolution to determine the present value of future retirement benefits, the parties must engage an actuary and/or accountant to determine present value. TRS will not make such determinations.

## TRS Contact Information

If you have any questions regarding the information presented here, please contact TRS

Call (866) 600-4045 | (406) 444-3134  
Write PO Box 200139, Helena MT 59620-0139